

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for voting shares comprising:
- receiving preferences regarding how to vote a user's shares in a corporation in a
- 5 corporate voting; and
- automatically voting the user's shares in accordance with the received preferences.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- 10 completing a corporate voting form in accordance with the received preferences.
3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- communicating a completed corporate voting form to the corporation.
- 15 4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- converting a hard copy of a corporate voting form into an electronic format.
5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- converting a hard copy of a corporate voting form into a computer readable and
- 20 communicable format.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
storing the preferences.

5 7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
storing the preferences in a database.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
communicating a plurality of organizations to the user from among which the
user can select to follow when voting the user's shares.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
rendering a plurality of organizations to the user from among which the user can
select to follow when voting the user's shares.

15 10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
receiving voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions.

20 11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
receiving voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions from
an affinity group.

12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions.

13. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

5 entering voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions into a database.

14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing a user interface by which an affinity group enters voting recommendations on one or more upcoming corporate actions.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing one or more voting recommendations to the user.

15 16. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing one or more voting preferences to the user.

17. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing a layered set of alternative voting preferences for each user.

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18. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

rendering a list of one or more affinity groups that provide voter recommendations on one or more corporate voting actions by one or more corporations.

5 19. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an indication of one or more of the affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to consider when voting shares in at least one corporate action by at least one corporation.

10 20. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to follow when voting the user's shares.

21. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 receiving a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to oppose when voting the user's shares.

22. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

electronically communicating a user's vote to the corporation.

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23. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user's share are voted based on a

voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the user.

24. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user's share are voted in accordance with a voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the user.

5 25. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user's share are voted in opposition to a voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the user.

26. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user's share are voted in accordance with a majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.

10 27. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user's share are voted in opposition to a majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.

28. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 receiving a weight to apply to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

29. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 receiving from the user a weight to apply to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

30. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

applying a weight to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

31. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user's share are voted in accordance

5 with a weighted majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.

32. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user's share are voted in opposition to

10 a weighted majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.

33. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an indication of a first affinity group whose recommendations the user desires to follow when voting shares in a corporate action; and

15 receiving an indication of a second affinity group whose recommendations the user desires to follow when voting share in the corporate action if the first affinity group does not provide a recommendation for the corporate action.

34. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 receiving a prioritized list of affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to follow when voting shares in a corporate action.

35. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an indication of a plurality of affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to follow in a predetermined order in case a particular one or more of the plurality of affinity groups does not provide a recommendation on a particular corporate action of a particular corporation.

36. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

enabling an affinity group to review one or more corporate actions.

37. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

enabling an affinity group to provide recommendations on one or more corporate actions.

38. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

enabling an affinity group to provide recommendations as to the affinity group's position on one or more corporate actions.

39. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including management.

40. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including an association.

5 41. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including a political organization.

42. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

10 receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including a special interest group.

43. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including a trade association.

44. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including a competing corporation.

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45. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including an affiliated corporation.

5 46. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including a market analyst.

47. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

10 receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including a financial adviser.

48. A computer readable medium storing instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

15 receive preferences regarding how to vote a user's shares in a corporation in a corporate voting; and

vote the user's shares in accordance with the received preferences.

49. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the

20 processor to:

complete a corporate voting form in accordance with the received preferences.

50. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

communicate a completed corporate voting form to the corporation.

5 51. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

communicate a plurality of organizations to the user from among which the user can select to follow when voting the user's shares.

52. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

receive voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions from an affinity group.

15 53. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

provide one or more voting recommendations to the user.

54. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

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receive an indication of one or more of the affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to consider when voting shares in at least one corporate action by at least one corporation.

- 5 55. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

receive a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to follow when voting the user's shares.

- 10 56. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

receive a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to oppose when voting the user's shares.

- 15 57. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

electronically communicate a user's vote to the corporation.

58. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the user's shares are voted in
20 accordance with a voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the user.

59. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the user's shares are voted in opposition to a voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the user.

5 60. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the user's shares are voted in accordance with a majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.

61. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the user's shares are voted in opposition to a majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.

62. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:
15 apply a weight to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

63. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the user's shares are voted in accordance with a weighted majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.

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64. The medium according to claim 48, wherein the user's shares are voted in opposition to a weighted majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.

5 ~~65~~. An apparatus for voting on a plurality of corporate actions involving a plurality of corporations, comprising:

a shareholder voting preference interface via which a shareholder enters one or more preferences regarding how to vote the shareholder's shares in future corporate votes; and

10 an affinity group interface via which one or more affinity groups can enter voting recommendations on specific corporate actions of one or more corporations.

66. The apparatus according to claim 65, wherein the shareholder voting preference interface is provided by a server.

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67. The apparatus according to claim 65, wherein the affinity group interface is provided by a server.

68. The apparatus according to claim 65, further comprising a database storing the one
20 or more shareholder preferences and the voting recommendations of the one or more affinity groups.

69. The apparatus according to claim 65, further comprising a corporate interface for one or more corporations via which the one or more corporations transmit corporate action notifications and receive shareholder votes.

5 70. The apparatus according to claim 65, further comprising a corporate interface for one or more corporations via which the one or more corporations transmit corporate action notifications and receive shareholder votes, the corporate interface provided by a server.

10 71. The apparatus according to claim 65, further comprising a voting system comparing the one or more stored shareholder preferences and the stored voting recommendations of the one or more affinity groups and voting the shareholder's shares in accordance with the stored shareholder preferences and the stored voting recommendations.

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~~72.~~ A method for managing a plurality of shares held by a shareholder in a plurality of corporations comprising:

searching for a match between a plurality of preferences received from the shareholder as to how to vote shares and a plurality of corporate actions; and

20 if a match results, automatically voting in at least one of the plurality of corporate actions in accordance with at least one corresponding preference.

73. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of preferences from the shareholder as to how to vote each of the plurality of shareholder's shares.

5 74. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving descriptions of a plurality of corporate actions.

75. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

storing the plurality of preferences.

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76. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

storing the plurality of preferences in a database.

77. The method according to claim 72, further comprising storing the plurality of

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preferences in advance of a corporate action.

78. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

completing a corporate voting form in accordance with the plurality of received preferences.

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79. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

communicating a completed corporate voting form to a corresponding corporation.

5 80. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

converting a hard copy of a corporate voting form into an electronic format.

81. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

10 converting a hard copy of a corporate voting form into a computer readable and communicable format.

82. The method according to claim 72, wherein the plurality of preferences includes an indication of one or more organizations to authorize to vote at least part of the plurality of shares on behalf of the shareholder.

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83. The method according to claim 72, wherein the plurality of preferences includes a selection of one or more organizations whose position on one or more corporate actions the shareholder desires to follow for at least some of the plurality of shares.

20 84. The method according to claim 72, wherein the plurality of preferences includes an indication that shares of a particular corporation are to be voted in accordance with a

first organization's stated position and other shares of the particular corporation are to be voted in accordance with a second organization's stated position.

85. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

5 communicating a plurality of organizations to the shareholder from among
which the shareholder can select to follow when voting the shareholder's shares.

86. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

10 displaying a plurality of organizations to the shareholder from among which the
shareholder can select to follow when voting the shareholder's shares.

87. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions.

15 88. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions from
an affinity group.

89. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

20 storing voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions.

90. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

entering voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions into a database.

5 91. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

providing an interface by which an affinity group can enter voting recommendations on one or more upcoming corporate actions.

92. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

10 providing one or more voting recommendations to the shareholder.

93. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

providing one or more voting preferences to the shareholder.

15 94. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

providing a layered set of alternative voting preferences for the shareholder.

95. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

rendering a list of one or more affinity groups that provide recommendations
20 regarding one or more corporate voting actions.

96. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving an indication of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the shareholder desires to consider when voting shares in at least one corporate action by at least one corporation.

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97. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the shareholder desires to follow when voting the shareholder's shares.

10 98. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the shareholder desires to oppose when voting the shareholder's shares.

99. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

15 electronically communicating the shareholder's vote to the corresponding corporation.

100. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

20 voting the shareholder's shares in accordance with a voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

101. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

voting the shareholder's shares in opposition to a voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

5 102. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

voting the shareholder's shares in accordance with a majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

103. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

10 voting the shareholder's shares in opposition to a majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

104. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

15 receiving a weight to apply to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

105. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving from the shareholder a weight to apply to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

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106. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

applying a weight to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

107. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:
voting the shareholder's shares in accordance with a weighted majority position
held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

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108. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:
voting the shareholder's shares in opposition to a weighted majority position
held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

10 109. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:
receiving an indication of a first affinity group whose recommendations the
shareholder desires to follow when voting shares in a corporate action; and
receiving an indication of a second affinity group whose recommendations the
shareholder desires to follow when voting share in the corporate action if the first
15 affinity group does not provide a recommendation for the corporate action.

110. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:
receiving an prioritized list of affinity groups whose recommendations the
shareholder desires to follow when voting shares in a corporate action.

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111. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving an prioritized list of affinity groups whose recommendations the shareholder desires to follow when voting shares in a corporate action.

5 112. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving an indication of a plurality of affinity groups whose recommendations the shareholder desires to follow in a predetermined order in case a particular one or more of the plurality of affinity groups does not provide a recommendation on a particular corporate action of a particular corporation.

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113. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

enabling an affinity group to review one or more corporate actions.

114. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

15 enabling an affinity group to provide recommendations on one or more corporate actions.

115. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

20 enabling an affinity group to provide recommendations as to the affinity group's position on one or more corporate actions.

116. The method according to claim 72, further comprising:

receiving recommendations from an affinity group regarding one or more corporate actions, the affinity group including one or more of the following: management, an association, a political organization, a special interest group, a trade association, a competing corporation, an affiliated corporation, a market analyst, and a financial adviser.

117. A computer readable medium storing instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

search for a match between a plurality of preferences received from the shareholder as to how to vote each of the shareholder's shares and a plurality of corporate actions; and

if a match results, vote in at least one of the plurality of corporate actions in accordance with at least one corresponding preference.

118. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

complete a corporate voting form in accordance with the received preferences.

119. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

communicate a completed corporate voting form to the corporation.

120. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

communicate a plurality of organizations to the shareholder from among which
5 the shareholder can select to follow when voting the shareholder's shares.

121. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

receive voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions from
10 an affinity group.

122. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

provide one or more voting recommendations to the shareholder.
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123. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

receive an indication of one or more of the affinity groups whose
recommendations the shareholder desires to consider when voting shares in at least one
20 corporate action by at least one corporation.

124. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

receive a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the shareholder desires to follow when voting the shareholder's shares.

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125. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

receive a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the shareholder desires to oppose when voting the shareholder's shares.

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126. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:

electronically communicate a shareholder's vote to the corporation.

15 127. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the shareholder's shares are voted in accordance with a voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

128. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the shareholder's shares are voted
20 in opposition to a voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

129. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the shareholder's shares are voted in accordance with a majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

5 130. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the shareholder's shares are voted in opposition to a majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

10 131. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:
apply a weight to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

15 132. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the shareholder's shares are voted in accordance with a weighted majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

20 133. The medium according to claim 117, wherein the shareholder's shares are voted in opposition to a weighted majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the shareholder.

134. A method for voting shares in a corporation, comprising:
developing recommendations regarding a corporate voting; and

communicating the recommendations to a service that automatically votes a user's shares in the corporation based on the recommendations.

135. The method according to claim 134, wherein the voting recommendations regard
5 one or more corporate actions.

136. The method according to claim 134, wherein the service votes the user's shares in accordance with the recommendations.

10 137. The method according to claim 134, wherein the service votes the user's shares in opposition to the recommendations.

138. The method according to claim 134, further comprising:
entering voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions.

15 139. The method according to claim 134, further comprising:
entering voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions into a database.

20 140. A computer readable medium storing instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:
develop recommendations regarding a corporate voting; and

communicate the recommendations to a service that automatically votes a user's shares in the corporation based on the recommendations.

141. The medium according to claim 140, wherein the voting recommendations
5 regard one or more corporate actions.

142. The medium according to claim 140, wherein the service votes the user's shares in accordance with the recommendations.

10 143. The medium according to claim 140, wherein the service votes the user's shares in opposition to the recommendations.

144. The medium according to claim 140, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:
15 enter voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions.

145. The medium according to claim 140, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to:
enter voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions into a
20 database.

146. A method for obtaining a vote of a user's shares in a corporation in a corporate voting comprising:
- communicating a corporate voting form for a user holding shares in a corporation; and
 - 5 receiving the user's vote from a service that votes the user's shares.
147. The method according to claim 146, wherein the user's vote is received via a completed corporate voting form.
- 10 148. The method according to claim 146, wherein the corporate voting form is communicated electronically.
149. The method according to claim 146, wherein the user's vote is received electronically.
- 15 150. The method according to claim 146, wherein the service votes the user's shares based on recommendations provided by one or more affinity groups.
151. The method according to claim 146, wherein the service votes the user's shares
- 20 in accordance with recommendations provided by one or more affinity groups.

152. The method according to claim 146, wherein the service votes the user's shares in opposition to recommendations provided by one or more affinity groups.

153. A computer readable medium storing instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

communicate a corporate voting form for a user holding shares in a corporation;

and

receive the user's vote from a service that automatically votes the user's shares.

154. The medium according to claim 153, wherein the user's vote is received via a completed corporate voting form.

155. The medium according to claim 153, wherein the corporate voting form is communicated electronically.

156. The medium according to claim 153, wherein the user's vote is received electronically.

157. The medium according to claim 153, wherein the service votes the user's shares based on recommendations provided by one or more affinity groups.

158. The medium according to claim 153, wherein the service votes the user's shares in accordance with recommendations provided by one or more affinity groups.

159. The medium according to claim 153, wherein the service votes the user's shares
5 in opposition to recommendations provided by one or more affinity groups.

160. A vote of a user's shares in a corporation assembled according to the the steps comprising:
receiving preferences regarding how to vote a user's shares in a corporation in a
10 corporate voting; and
automatically submitting the vote in accordance with the received preferences.

161. The vote according to claim 160, wherein the preferences are received from the
user.
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162. The vote according to claim 160, wherein the preferences are received
electronically.

163. The vote according to claim 160, wherein the vote is submitted to the
20 corporation.

164. The vote according to claim 160, wherein the vote is submitted electronically.

165. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

communicating a plurality of organizations to the user from among which the user can select to follow when voting the user's shares.

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166. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

rendering a plurality of organizations to the user from among which the user can select to follow when voting the user's shares.

10 167. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

receiving voting recommendations regarding one or more corporate actions from an affinity group.

168. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

15 providing one or more voting recommendations to the user.

169. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

rendering a list of one or more affinity groups that provide voter recommendations on one or more corporate voting actions by one or more corporations.

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170. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

receiving an indication of one or more of affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to consider when voting shares in at least one corporate action by at least one corporation.

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171. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

receiving a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to follow when voting the user's shares.

10 172. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

receiving a selection of one or more affinity groups whose recommendations the user desires to oppose when voting the user's shares.

15 173. The vote according to claim 160, wherein the user's share are voted based on a voting recommendation of one or more affinity groups selected by the user.

174. The vote according to claim 160, wherein the user's share are voted based on a majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.

20 175. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

receiving a weight to apply to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

176. The vote according to claim 160, further comprising:

applying a weight to each of a plurality of affinity group's recommendations.

177. The vote according to claim 160, wherein the user's share are voted based on a

weighted majority position held by a plurality of affinity groups selected by the user.